

APPENDIX 10

To: The Kendrick Park Committee
From: Amherst Agricultural Commission
Re: Pavilion for Farmers Market in Kendrick Park
Date: December 10, 2008

The Agricultural Commission would like to express its support for the recommendations of the Kendrick Park Public Market Subcommittee. We have toured the park with the subcommittee, met with members of the subcommittee on December 9, and have reviewed and discussed their recommendations, and voted unanimously to express our support.

The current Amherst Farmer Market, while successful and vital, does not provide sufficient market space for all of the Amherst farmers who would like to sell in it. Amherst farmers who have applied to participate have been told there is a waiting list of ten years. Less than half of the current vendors are from Amherst. Our farmers need market opportunities to strengthen their businesses – and, our citizens need opportunities to buy from local farms.

Use of the north end of the park for a farmers market – one that will take place on a different day from the current market -- will bring activity and energy to the park and can be fully compatible with the natural and restful landscape that is desired by many residents. A covered pavilion will allow a longer market season and more comfortable conditions throughout the season. A multi-use open-sided pavilion can, we believe, have low impact on the park through careful choice of materials, good design features, and green options such as porous paving blocks that allow grass to grow. Such a community space can be used for concerts, theater, workshops, craft fairs, and many kinds of arts and recreation.

In this time of economic downturn, our downtown businesses are going to be struggling. Anything that will bring increased community activity and business into downtown will help. Our town's economic and food sustainability will depend on strengthening the production and use of local farm products. A farmers market that sells products grown and made in Amherst will enhance both our town businesses and our farms. The book and the plow have not only historical significance; they feed us.